

# Safeguarding

## Online safety

We recognise that the use of technology presents particular challenges and risks to children and adults both inside and outside of school.

Our members of staff with appropriate skills, interest and expertise regarding online safety are encouraged to help support the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), and deputy DSLs, when developing curriculum approaches or making technical decisions. However, our DSLs retain overall responsibility for online safeguarding within the school.

We appreciate that the issues within online safety are considerable, but can be broadly categorised into four areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: child-on-child pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying).
- **Commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

We acknowledge the specific risks that can be posed by mobile phones and cameras and have appropriate policies in place that are shared and understood by all members of the school community.

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## Our approach to online safety

Each of our Trust schools' approaches to online safety will consider the 4 Cs. We have clear rules relating to the use of mobile and smart technology that means pupils are not allowed to access their mobile phones. In doing so we are preventing and deterring the use of mobile phone networks during school time for pupils to sexually harass their peers via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images: consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups), and view and share pornography and other harmful content.

We recognise that online safety is part of the whole school approach to safeguarding which includes:

- Parental engagement with online safety
- An appropriate level of security to protect users and their data
- An annual review of the school's online safety procedures which include a risk assessment that reflects and considers the risks children face online
- Curriculum planning
- Teacher training
- The role and responsibilities of the DSL team

We ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place when pupils and staff access school systems and internet provision and are careful to ensure that these systems do not place unreasonable restrictions on internet access or limit what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.

Each of our schools will continue to communicate and reinforce to parents and carers how important it is that children are safe online and to inform them which filtering and monitoring systems are used in the setting. We will always let parents know what we are asking children to do online outside of school and the sites they will be asked to access and also which staff member they will be interacting with online (if any). DfE has provided [Providing Remote Education Advice for Schools](#). It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

Our Trust ensures a comprehensive whole school curriculum response is in place to enable all pupils to learn about and manage online risks effectively and we will continue to support parents and the wider school community (including all members of staff) to become aware and alert to the need to keep children safe online.

